DIVERSITY MATTERS AT DUQUESNE LAW
As part of a Catholic and Spiritan University Founded in 1878, Duquesne University School of Law’s mission since our inception in 1911 has been built upon a pursuit of justice that advances human dignity and mutual respect. Regardless of race, creed or any form of individual identity, the Law School embraces these values.

We are uniquely positioned to foster inclusive excellence and obligated to be agents of change. As a legal profession, we are committed to justice and know that being treated differently on account of these differences strikes at the heart of our core values.

We must hold on to the common humanity that bonds all of us and work to foster a community that respects human dignity. Duquesne Law is committed to crafting cognizable initiatives in the form of open forums and increased learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

We are constantly evolving and examining how we can best engage our community to ensure that everyone feels welcome, valued and heard. From the Dean’s Diversity Advisory Committee, Black Law Students Association and our own Director of Diversity, to diversity initiatives and leadership at the University level, we are committed to inclusion at all levels.

April M. Barton
Dean and Professor of Law
A TRADITION OF INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY.

Duquesne’s Spiritan founders believed in welcoming all and excluding none. Drawing on our heritage, we’ll walk alongside you, connecting you with life-changing people and opportunities so you can build a professional path with purpose.

Duquesne University School of Law is dedicated to creating a diverse community of scholars and a more diverse legal profession. Our students have more opportunities than ever to study with future colleagues from a multitude of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

They learn from professors who bring diverse experiences into the classroom—expertise in areas like intellectual property, civil rights, constitutional law, youth advocacy and animal law. And they experience all of this firsthand as the U.S. legal industry transforms into a more diverse profession.

A LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

1914
Mrs. M. Murphy is the first woman admitted to Duquesne Law

1925
Theron B. Hamilton is the first black man to graduate from Duquesne Law

1932
Percy J. Langster graduates and later becomes the first African American in the United States to be elected to the office of County Prosecutor

1959
Dr. Lois Mae Golden is the first African American woman to graduate from Duquesne Law

1970
Ronald R. Davenport installed as first black dean of a major American law school

2013
Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education opened to provide student attorneys hands-on client experiences that impact diverse communities

2019
20% of Fall 1L class identified as ethnically and racially diverse

2020
Pipeline partnership established with Xavier University of Louisiana, the nation’s only Catholic school among the Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Over the years: Duquesne hosts distinguished speakers, including U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Dean’s Diversity Action Council releases school-wide promise statement, “Our Promise Statement on Race and Justice”
DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS WHILE SERVING OTHERS.

Duquesne Law is embedded in local communities and works side-by-side with neighbors to address systemic challenges. We’ve worked hard to become a trusted partner—investing the time and energy that authentic collaboration and quality legal representation demand.

CLINICS AND EXTERNALSHIPS

Clinical education is one of the instructional cornerstones of Duquesne University School of Law. You’ll have the opportunity to participate in law clinics, externships, pro bono programs and fellowships that offer live client experiences and often include opportunities to appear in court to assist youth, veterans, families and others who benefit from our students’ passion.

“I came in knowing about Duquesne’s strong legal research and writing program, but seeing its location firsthand made it easy to imagine going to classes and working in the city. Duquesne’s strong emphasis on legal research and writing during 1L year has been foundational to what I do today.”

Nicole D. Prieto, L ’18
Associate, Reed Smith LLP

“Besides the captivating lectures, I was afforded the opportunity to participate in two clinics that were invaluable: the Urban Development Clinic and an externship at the Neighborhood Legal Services Association. These experiences gave me a chance to apply theoretical concepts to real “life-affecting” experiences.”

Jonathan Smith, L ’15
Wealth Manager/BNY Mellon Wealth Management

“‘I was an evening student and our class was made up of entrepreneurs, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, professional pilots, civil servants, activists and traditional students. That diversity led to very interesting and sometimes spirited debates and opinions during class discussions.’”

Eric R.I. Cottle, L ’96
Partner, K&L GATES, LLP

“My professors helped me hone my legal writing and other practical skills. I felt very prepared to hit the ground running when I graduated.”

Tynishia Powell, L ’16
Associate Council, Arconic

“‘The law can only work for all people when it reflects a full cross-section of our society. Intellectually rigorous law school classrooms filled with students rich in different perspectives will ensure that the law moves forward in a way that hears all voices.’”

Tiffany Sizemore
Assistant Professor of Clinical Legal Education School of Law

DUQUESNE LAW AT A GLANCE

93.16%
Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
Two-year rate—2017

87.88%
First-Time Pass Rate
Pennsylvania Bar Exam, July 2019

#9
Bar Exam Preparation
(National Jurist, 2017)
FIND YOUR NICHE AND GET INVOLVED.
We’ll make sure you gain the professional confidence, experience and powerful networks you need to get a running start on a meaningful career.

APPELLATE ADVOCACY
The award-winning School of Law Appellate Moot Court Board (AMCB) is a student-run organization devoted to the development of excellence in legal advocacy. The AMCB requires the highest standards of academic excellence and personal integrity. Students leave the program with new legal research, writing and advocacy skills, like case analysis, trial preparation, effective communication, witness preparation and case presentation.

BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
The mission of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Attorneys and other Attorneys-of-Color, who excel academically, succeed professionally and influence the community positively.

HISPANIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
The Hispanic American Bar Association (HABA) encourages members to serve the public interest by establishing strong relationships between students and Hispanics in the local community, understanding and addressing the legal issues that pertain to Hispanics in the community, and providing a forum in which practical and constructive discussion of these issues can take place.

TRIAL ADVOCACY
The School of Law also offers a nationally recognized Trial Advocacy program that prepares students to be courtroom-ready advocates. Through comprehensive coursework and competition experience, the program develops students’ skills in case analysis, trial preparation, effective communication, witness preparation and case presentation.

“Embrace your diversity, as it represents the legal profession that you are poised to enter. The profession is enriched by having a diversity of people and thoughts to address legal issues that impact the world that we live in.”

Shanicka L. Kennedy, L ’01
Senior Attorney, Business Model and Employment Litigation Group, FedEx Ground
MINORITY STUDENTS RESOURCE FUND
Duquesne Law offers students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to support the purchase of books and other expenses outside of tuition.

PURSUE YOUR INTERESTS AND NETWORK WITH ALUMNI.
THEY’RE EMPLOYED IN ALL AREAS OF LAW.

- Criminal
- Family
- Civil rights
- Business
- Environmental
- Personal injury
- Labor
- Corporate
- Immigration
- Finance
- Tax
- Intellectual property
- Non-profit
- Government
- ... and more.

“I received a quality education first and foremost. But I also developed positive and lasting relationships, a strong work ethic, a desire to succeed and a sense of confidence.”

Kim Berkeley Clark, L’83
President Judge, Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania

“Duquesne Law trains students to first and foremost consider the ethical implications of any legal issue—no matter how complex or simple the issue may seem. This approach has served me well in my legal career and beyond.”

Asra Hashmi, L’15
Associate Attorney, Jackson Lewis P.C.

“Diversity is important because it fosters a sense of belonging without which no law school can succeed.”

Pablo Echeverri
Assistant Professor of Law
About Duquesne

Founded in 1878, Duquesne is consistently ranked among the nation’s top Catholic universities for its award-winning faculty and tradition of academic excellence. Duquesne, a campus of about 9,500 graduate and undergraduate students, has been nationally recognized for its academic programs, community service and commitment to sustainability.

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This publication is presented by the Duquesne Law Alumni Association. For more information on our esteemed alumni and the DLAA, visit duq.edu/dlaa.